

Box Butte Development Corporation

"To enhance and diversify the economy & Box Butte County"

John M. Olafson, Executive Director

May 7,2007

Office of the Secretary Federal Communications Commission **445** 12th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. **20554** MAY 1 4 2007

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RE: WC Docket No. 02-60 (Rural Health Care Mechanism Pilot Program)

Office of the Secretary:

I am pleased to send this letter on behalf of the Rural Nebraska Healthcare Network (RNHN) and the possibility of attaining funding through the FCC's Pilot Program. With this **funding**, you will promote continued collaboration and development of Rural Healthcare in the Panhandle of Nebraska.

As Executive Director of the Box Butte Development Corporation, it is my job to help promote continued success for our county. I see this funding opportunity allowing Box Butte General Hospital and the surrounding panhandle hospitals within the RNHN to secure a very strong future in healthcare for the Panhandle.

Living in the Panhandle with hundreds of miles between health providers and access to care, I see the need for connectivity as crucial. We have learned bow to survive the distance and meet the needs that we have; with this FCC Pilot Program we could have the chance of a lifetime to supply an unbelievable resource to propel healthcare in the Panhandle. This could promote ways to save lives and provide preventive healthcare measures for the residents of the Panhandle for years and years to come.

Living and working in the panhandle of Nebraska and seeing an opportunity like this "FCC **Rural** Health Care Pilot **Program"** cap truly impact our lives. The RNHN has been collaborating for many years, and they are the ultimate example for your program. I want to "thank you" for your time and consideration in this written request.

Sincerely.

John Olafson, Executive Director
Box Butte Development Corporation

cc: Honorable Kevin J, Martin

cc: Honorable Michael J. Copps

cc: Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein cc: Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate

cc: Honorable Robert M. McDowell

cc: Jeremy Marcus, Telecommunications Access Policy Division; Wireline Competition Bureau

cc: Thomas Buckley, Telecommunications Access Policy Division; Wireline Competition Bureau